

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

September 27, 1982

Dr. Henry Falk
Centers for Disease Control
Chief of Special Studies Branch
Chronic Diseases Division CEH
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333



Dear Dr. Falk:

The Montana State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences has compiled information which suggests that emissions from the East Helena, Montana industrial sources (ASARCO) and American Chemet may adversely affect the health of the population. ASARCO has a primary lead smelter while American Chemet processes lead bearing zinc material. The enclosed information includes: 1) an older study "Helena Valley, Montana, Area Environmental Pollution Study" which was performed by EPA in 1969 and 1970, and 2) recent information which gives metal depositions; identifies sources of particulates and lead; lists garden, soil, road and house dust metal concentrations; describes recent powerful chemical-mass-balance data analysis techniques; lists traffic counts; shows population information; and presents 1975 East Helena children blood-lead data. If you have questions about this data, please contact Mr. David Maughan, who either collected or supervised the collection of the recent data excepting the blood lead information. He can be reached at (406) 449-3454 or FTS 587-3454.

Montana requests CDC's assistance in performing a study which might:

1. Analyze blood-lead and erthrocyte protoporphrin levels over a one-year period of time;
2. Study the highest risk population including infants;
3. Identify sources of household, garden vegetable, soil, etc. lead which cause elevated levels in the population;
4. Include adverse health effects caused by high concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, copper and possibly several other metals; and
5. Utilize technical and laboratory facilities of CDC.

We realize the above may be lofty study goals, but also that you may be able to make suggestions for such a study based on your extensive background.

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This is perhaps the best characterized study area known. We feel we understand metal make-up within the area and hope to utilize this large source data base in identifying particulates which adversely affect the human population. We, therefore, recommend an extensive study if possible.

At present we have some technical and laboratory facilities available for the proposed study. Mr. Daniel Graybill, a public health intern, will be available until the end of 1982, to assist us with the project. We understand you may be able to come to Montana with others to discuss and plan the study, possibly in October.

Please study this request and contact me at (406) 449-4740 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


John S. Anderson, M.D.
Administrator
Health Services Division

JSA:dag
Enclosures